

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 OIC-04 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00

CIEP-02 CEA-02 DODE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 DOTE-00

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TAGS: ETRN, UNCTAD

SUBJ: UNCTAD: LINER CONFERENCE MEETING OFF TO SATISFACTORY START

BEGIN SUMMARY: SECOND SESSION OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES GOT OFF TO SATISFACTORY AND AMIABLE START. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CHARACTERIZED COUNTERPROPOSALS OF GROUP B AS INCOMPLETE BECAUSE OF OMISSION OF AMENDMENTS ON KEYS ISSUES SUCH AS IMPLEMENTATION, PRINCIPLES, AND CARGO- SHARING; NEVERTHELESS THEY WELCOMED EFFORTS MADE BY GROUP B AS STEP FORWARD. AT INSISTANCE OF LDCE, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES EVENTUALLY PRESENTED COUNTERPROPOSALS FOR PART OF CODE. GROUPS SPENTMUCH OF REMAINDER OF WEEKPROBING POSITIONS IN SOMEWHAT REDUNDANT QUESTION AND ANSWER EXERCISE. UNDER PRESSURE FROM LDCE GROUP B WAS ABLE TABLE BY END OF WEEK FRAGILE COMPROMISE ON CONCILATION PROCEDURES AS PART OF SECTION ON IMPLEMENTATION. SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF CODE EXPECTED START NEXT WEEK IN CONTACT GROUP- TYPE WORKING PARTY. END SUMMARY

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1. SECOND SESSION OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PC) ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES GOT OFF TO SATISFACTORY AND AMIABLE START. FREQUENT CANCELLATION OF MEETINGS AVOIDED SINCE GROUP OF 77 (DEVELOPING) COUNTRIES HAD HAD TIME AT PRE-SESSION MEETING TO REVIEW POSITIONS AND SETTLE ON TACTICS. ONE DAY PLENARY CONFINED TO ROUTINE HOUSEKEEPING CHORES AND BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF COUNTERPROPOSALS ON SUBSTANCE OF CODE BY GROUP B (DEVELOPED) COUNTRIES. WORKING GROUPS II (ON SUBSTANCE OF CODE) AND III (ON IMPLEMENTATION) COMMENCED WORK ON SECOND DAY (JUNE 5). AWCKOYA (NIGERIA) ELECTED CHAIRMAN WG II IN PLACE OF QUARTEY (GHANA) WHO UNABLE ATTEND.

2. WORKING GROUP II. IN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT ESTABLISH CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE, COORDINATOR FOR GROUP OF 77 (DEVELOPING) COUNTRIES (RAJWAR - INDIA) WELCOMED EFFORT MADE BY GROUP B IN FORMULATING COUNTERPROPOSALS. PROPOSALS, HOWEVER, CHARACTERIZED AS INCOMPLETE MAINLY BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF SECTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND PRINCIPLES OF CODE. HE SAID LDCS HAD EXPECTED MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE THAN MERE REFLECTION OF VIEWS OF FIRST SESSION OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (JAN. '73). WIDE GAP CONTINUES EXIST ON ISSUES AT HEART OF CODE SUCH AS : MEMBERSHIP INCLUDING CARGO SHARING; WAY PORT CONFERENCES; ROLE AND PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENTS; FREIGHT RATES, AND SURCHARGES. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, APPROACH OF GROUP OF 77 WILL NOT BE NEGATIVE AND ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO CLARIFY MATTERS IN EACH CASE. CHAIR PRESSED GROUP D (SOCIALIST) COUNTRIES TO EMULATE CONSTRUCTIVE GROUP B EXAMPLE. POLAND (DABROWSKI) ON BEHALF OF GROUP FINALLY TABLED COMMENTS ON MEMBERSHIP JUNE 6. REMAINDER OF WEEK CONSISTED OF PROBING OF POSITIONS IN QUESTION AND ANSWER EXERCISE SOMEWHAT REDUNDANT OF JANUARY SESSION IN WHICH EACH GROUP EXPLAINED SPECIFIC TEXTS OF OTHERWISE REITERATED OLD POSITIONS.

3. WORKING GROUP III. IN EFFORT TO PUT PRESSURE ON GROUP B, CHAIR PROPOSED AT FIRST SESSION THAT WG ADJOURN FOR REST OF WEEK TO GIVE TIME TO GROUPS B AND D TO FORMULATE COUNTER-PROPOSALS. GROUP B SPENT MAJORITY OF TIME REFINING DRAFT SECTION ON CONCILIATION PROCEDURES PREPARED AT LAST MTC SPECIAL GROUPS MEETING (PARIS, MAY 3-11). UK BALKED WHEN WG TRIED TO MOVE ON TO PREPARATION OF SIMILAR DRAFT ON ARBITRATION. DIFFERENCES ON CONCILIATION PROPOSALS SUFFICIENTLY PAPERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OVER TO ALLOW FORMAL TABLING OF TEXT ON BEHALF OF GROUP B ON JUNE 8.

4. IT NOW PLANNED THAT 18-MEMBER WORKING PARTY UNDER WG- II WILL COMMENCE ON TUESDAY MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION IN EFFORT TO NARROW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VARIOUS GROUPS AND HOPEFULLY TO PRODUCE AGREED TEXTS FOR LESS

CONTROVERSIAL PROVISIONS. DEGROOT (NETHERLANDS) WILL REPLACE
VOSS AS GROUP B SPOKESMAN DURING 2 ND AND 3 RD WEEKS OF
MEETING. BASSIN

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